

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 281715 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9584

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E. O. 11652: ,/ A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS

1. PREMIER- DESIGNATE RUMOR, NOW WELL INTO THE SECOND WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, HELD FIRST JOINT MEETING JUNE 28 WITH LEADERSHIP OF FOUR CENTER- LEFT PARTIES. NEXT STEPS WILL INVOLVE FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEETINGS AMONG PARTY LEADERS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL PARTY CAUCUSES AND FURTHER " COLLEGIAL" SESSIONS AS NECESSARY BEFOR RUMOR, AS NOW SEEMS PROBABLE, LIFTS THE RESERVATION WITH WHICH HE ACCEPTED THE JOB AS FORMATEUR.

2. THUS FAR, FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED AT STEADY PACE, BUT PROGRAM MAY COME SLOWLY FROM HERE ON OUT AS NEGOTIATIONS TACKLE TOUGHER ISSUES. PROBLEMS ADDRESSED SO FAR HAVE INCLUDED ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES (UPON NEED FOR WHICH THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT). POLICE DE- TENTION LAW, SUBSTANCE AND PRIORITIES OF KEY REFORMS, INCLUDING THAT OF RADIO- TV. APPARENTLY, DIFFERENCES AMONG PARTICIPANTS ON THESE ISSUES RELATE NOT ONLY TO DETAILS BUT ALSO TO EXTENT TO WHICH SOLUTIONS MUST BE SPELLED OUT IN ADVANCE OF GOVERNMENT' S FORMATION (AS PSI SEEMS TO WANT) OR LEFT FOR CONSIDERATION WITHIN COALITION THERE- AFTER (AS RUMOR SEEMS TO PREFER). OVERSHADOWING POLITICAL QUESTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IS RECEIVING
RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION AT MOMENT. PSI SOURCES TELL US THAT
DE MARTINO AND FANFANI HAVE ALREADY STRUCK INFORMAL ACCORD TO
ACCEPT DC CONGRESS LANGUAGE CALLING FOR SELF- SUFFICIENT,
" AUTONOMOUSLY
RESPONSIBLE" MAJORITY.

3. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO SIGNS SUGGESTING THAT RUMOR WILL FAIL IN
PUTTING TOGETHER A FULL FOUR- PARTY GOVERNMENT, AND AT MOMENT ONLY
OPEN
OPPONENT OF FOUR- PARTY SOLUTION AMONG CENTER- LEFT COMPONENTS IS
FAR-
LEFT PSI FACTION HEADED BY LOMBARDI. NONETHELESS, RUMOR AND HIS
PROSPECTIVE ALLIES STILL FACE DIFFICULT BARGAINING IN RESOLVING
REMAIN-
ING PROGRAM DIFFERENCES AS WELL AS IN MAKING EQUALLY DIFFICULT
DIVISION
OF CABINET ASSIGNMENTS. AT PRESENT, BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE INSTALLED BEFORE MID- JULY. VOLPE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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